

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1114

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Justin J. Pearson, Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Justin J. Pearson, who is being honored at the Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service he has provided to the people of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Bowdoin College, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and Legal Studies and Education in 2017, Mr. Pearson currently serves as President and Chairman of Memphis Community Against Pollution, Inc., a grassroots environmental justice organization that fights systemic inequality by empowering local community voices to be heard by those in positions of power; and

WHEREAS, Justin Pearson has served as President and Chairman since October 2020, and since that time, he has led the organization's environmental justice and social justice coalition of twenty-five presidents and founders of organizations across the region and developed future leaders in the youth activist movement, among his various other duties; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pearson concurrently serves as Special Assistant to the CEO at Year Up National in Boston, Massachusetts, a post he has held since March 2019; in this capacity, he manages projects with senior executives and several stakeholders for organization-wide initiatives involving twenty-five cities and 1,000 staff members, works alongside the CEO to manage a \$170 million budget, and implements strategic plans with the goal of increasing the scale and impact of the organization five-fold over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, previously, Justin Pearson served as the Internship Services Representative with Year Up Greater Boston, an analyst with Inner City Capital Connections, and a Princeton Public Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy and International Affairs Junior Summer Institute; and

WHEREAS, wholly committed to serving others, Mr. Pearson is a board member of the Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Vine St., and Forest St. Community Council and founder of Camp Hope Memphis, a three-week summer program for underserved high school students that addresses violence and poverty in Memphis and focuses on social advocacy, educational attainment, and increasing global perspectives; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Justin Pearson was selected as a Harry S. Truman National Finalist in 2016 and was named a Sandy Williams Legacy Coca-Cola Scholar Board Member in 2015 and an Alumni Emeritus member of the board in 2017; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Pearson has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity; his commitment to excellence and community service is representative of the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Justin J. Pearson upon his recognition at the Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud his outstanding community leadership, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend our best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.